

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 901

By Favors

A RESOLUTION to recognize Calvin Sneed on the occasion of his retirement.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this legislative body should honor those citizens who have performed with uncommon devotion and enthusiasm throughout their years of industry; and

WHEREAS, Calvin Sneed is one such estimable individual, who served with distinction for nearly forty-nine years in broadcasting, taking his much-deserved retirement in December 2017; and

WHEREAS, the son of the late Horace P. Sneed and Alene Sneed, Calvin Sneed was born in Cleveland, Ohio, and grew up in the Riverview Community of Kingsport, Tennessee; he currently resides in Chattanooga and Lewisburg; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Sneed's family legacy finds its home in Tennessee; his father owned his own business, Sneed's Carpet and Furniture Cleaning Service in Kingsport, and his maternal grandfather, William "Wish" Randall Johnson, was one of the largest African-American property owners in Marshall County; and

WHEREAS, Calvin Sneed attended Douglass School and graduated from Dobyons-Bennett High School in 1972; he went on to graduate *magna cum laude* from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, in 1977 with a bachelor's degree in broadcasting and journalism; and

WHEREAS, while still in high school, Mr. Sneed worked as a disc jockey and radio and television news reporter at WKPT Radio and TV in Kingsport; during his college years, he worked as a news reporter/photographer and news producer at WTVC-TV in Chattanooga, a news reporter at WIVK radio station in Knoxville, and a news anchor, reporter, photographer, and co-host of "PM Magazine" at WATE-TV in Knoxville; and

WHEREAS, upon graduating from college, Calvin Sneed continued working at WATE-TV; in 1985, he relocated to Columbus, Ohio, to serve as news anchor, consumer investigative reporter, and morning talk show host at WSYX-TV; and

WHEREAS, he remained in Columbus, Ohio, until 1992, when he left his position as news director and anchor-reporter at WSWZ-FM to take a position as news anchor/consumer investigative reporter at WTVC-TV in Chattanooga, remaining at the station for twenty-six years; and

WHEREAS, a trusted leader in his field, Mr. Sneed served as an inaugural board member of the Tennessee Film, Tape, and Music Commission and an advisor to the Tennessee Predatory Lending Task Force; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to honors and accolades, Calvin Sneed received an Associated Press Broadcast Award for Radio Enterprise Reporting in 1991 for "Ohio's Boot Camp for Youthful Offenders"; and

WHEREAS, Calvin Sneed is an active and important part of his community and his profession; he is a board member of the Better Business Bureau of Southeast Tennessee/Northwest Georgia, board vice president and webmaster/public relations for The Sons and Daughters of Douglass High School Alumni Association, board president of the Great Golden Gathering Schools Alumni Association, and a member of the Marshall County Historical Society; he also serves as a community news reporter/contributor for the *Kingsport Times-News*; and

WHEREAS, a man of many talents and abilities, Mr. Sneed is the author of *Building Bridges: From Our Past To Our Future*, a coffee table book that was published in 2017, and he is currently at work on a follow-up coffee table book, which is slated for publication in the summer of 2018; and

WHEREAS, Calvin Sneed exemplifies the spirit and allegiance to family and community that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, throughout his estimable career, Mr. Sneed has demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability, and integrity, winning the sincere respect and admiration of his colleagues; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we extend to Calvin Sneed our heartfelt wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement and every continued success in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.